

General Principles

- Existing open spaces should be renovated and programmed to activate these places, while discouraging illegal activity.
- New open space acquisition could be located in the zone that is not currently being served, primarily in the Little Saigon neighborhood. However, if the Community identifies a better site to acquire in either Chinatown or Japantown, considering its existing residential base, then acquisition of those sites should be taken into strong consideration.
- Encourage development of open space in conjunction with new construction and renovation as a public/private partnership where open space, business activity, and housing all support each other.
- Maintenance by the parks department and private community entities.

Summary

The Community currently has 1.5 acres of developed, publicly managed open space distributed in three parks: Hing Hay Park, International Children’s Park, and Kobe Terrace Park. In addition, the District has a large community garden, the Danny Woo International District Community Garden, and one piece of undeveloped park propertyapproximately a quarter acre in size located near Dearborn and 12th Avenue. Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan has set a goal that the Community - as one of the Downtown Urban Center Villages - should have one acre of usable open space per 1,000 household and open space within 1/8 of a mile of every household (See LU-A20).

The open space currently existing in the District does not meet the minimum standard for the acreage or distribution of usable open space. Moreover, existing parks have serious problems with crime and require maintenance, programming, and policing to help make them a well used amenity. In addition to the public open

space minimum requirements for Urban Center Villages, Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan calls for “breathing room” open space, which is defined as all open space within a community including private properties. The goal for breathing room open space is one acre per 100 residents (See LU-A20). Many of the private open spaces, like the Chong Wa Playground and the plazas at the Union Station development (plaza in front of the Union Station building, Bus Station tunnel lid, and the Vulcan and Opus buildings) are quite successful because of programming and adjacent uses.

Existing Conditions

While there are many open spaces in the neighborhood offering a variety of amenities, all the parks suffer from illegal activity making it often difficult for residents and legitimate visitors to use. The 1998 Chinatown/International District Strategic Plan suggested that many repairs and new programs are needed in the parks. Subsequently, the City of Seattle has adopted these recommendations into the Comprehensive Plan, and Seattle’s Parks and Recreation has completed many of the repairs recommended in the Neighborhood Plan. However, some recommendations have not been implemented due to various reasons that are outlined in the following table. The map and table on pages 21 and 22, highlights the existing conditions for each of the open spaces in the District.

Neighborhood Planning Implementation Table 1a

Open Space	1998 Chinatown/International District Strategic Plan Open Space Recommendations	Seattle Parks and Recreation Response	
International District Park Acquisition	Purchase new park space on vacant parcel on Jackson east of I-5, next to Asian Plaza.	Status: Not done because parcel developed. At least, \$500,000 can be utilized from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy’s Opportunity Fund for acquisition	
Kobe Park Maintenance	Work with Parks Department to complete maintenance at Kobe Park (damaged stairs, pathways; pruning; lighting installation)	Maintenance done and on-going at Kobe Terrace Park. Parks Upgrade Program Funding identified for 2003 and 2004 to do path improvement and other landscape renovation work.	
Hing Hay Park Maintenance	Work with Parks Department to complete maintenance at Hing Hay-evening of brick surface; improving mural & kiosk; cleaning awning; repainting pavilion.	Hing Hay maintenance work on-going and has included brick repair. DPR with community organizations have installed new benches in the park, and have also repaired sidewalks surrounding the Park.	
Children’s Park Maintenance	Work with Parks Department to complete maintenance at Children’s Park-new, safer play equipment.	International Children’s Park new play equipment installed or 4 years ago.	

Neighborhood Planning Implementation Table 1a - continuation

Open Space	1998 Chinatown/International District Strategic Plan Open Space Recommendations	Seattle Parks and Recreation Response
District Wide Park Events programming	Encourage more frequent use of parks by developing specific community programs and elements.	ID community members participated with other Downtown community members and the Parks Department in Downtown Parks operations study that looks at operations issues; Community groups have conducted summer programming at the park over the last 5 years

Open Space Existing Conditions - Table 1b

	Name	Amenities	Programming
1	Danny Woo Gardens (Privately held for public use.)	Community managed garden	Pig Roast (27 years) Apple Cider Potluck (3 yrs.) Informal BBQs, a wedding, film screenings, and work parties youth development, gardening & tree pruning & educational workshops regarding urban agriculture/sustainable development principles.

Open Space Existing Conditions - Table 1b continuation

	Name	Amenities	Programming
2	Hing Hay Park	Plaza, Chinese style pavilion, game tables on east side, bulletin board, stools on south side, Pathways to Pride public art piece, dedication stone piece to WWII Chinese-American veterans, water fountain, large trees, dragon mural	Chinatown - I.D. Street Fair (10+ years) Music in the park (4 years) Game tournament (3 yrs.) Movies in the park (3 yrs.) Spring Clean Up gathering place (4 years) Morn. Tai Chi & meditation Starting and ending point for political demonstrations
3	International Children's Garden	Small child play area, art incorporated into play equipment (dragon), umbrella shaped picnic shelter.	Informal use by nearby daycare services and elementary schools
4	ID Vill. Sq. II Community Center (Private)	Gym, library, public housing, retail, community services offices	To be determined
5	Undeveloped Seattle Park Property	Vacant lot, views at top of hill	To be determined

To find location of the open space on the map on page 21,

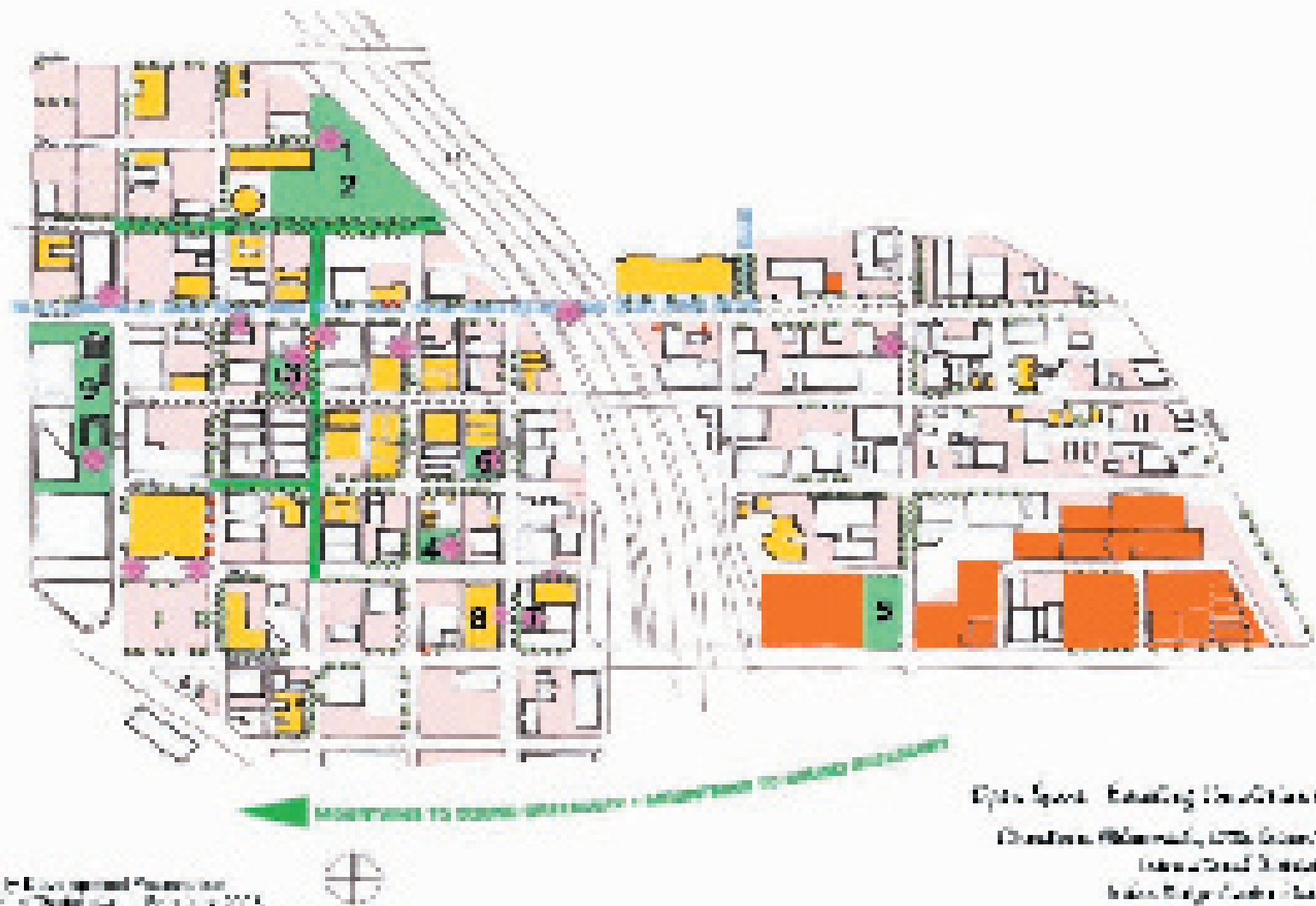
Legend

EXISTING ZONES (2014 Zoning Map)

- Low-density
- Light-medium
- Medium
- Medium-high
- Heavy Residential
- ✱ Public Use
- Light Industrial
- Medium Industrial
- Heavy Industrial

1. Other Business Park
2. Heavy Industrial
3. Light Industrial
4. Office/Professional
5. Medium-Density Residential
6. Medium-Density Residential
7. Medium-Density Residential
8. Medium-Density Residential
9. Medium-Density Residential

FIGURE 12 Existing Zoning Districts Surrounding the Proposed Project
 (Adapted from "Zoning Map of the City of Portland," 2014)



Optimizing Existing Conditions
 (Adapted from "Zoning Map of the City of Portland," 2014)

Seattle Comprehensive Plan Open Space Goals

According to the Seattle Strategic Planning Office (2001) the Community falls within the Chinatown-International District Urban Center Village located in Downtown. Currently, there are 2,541 housing units in the District (that includes 133 temporary housing units, but does not include the 551 units in vacant buildings). Based on current proposals there will be 2,733 housing units in the District by 2005. The 2001 update of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan targeted 534 additional units to be constructed between 2005 and 2014 for a total of 3,267 units. In addition, according to the 2000 US Census, the District currently has a population of 3,099 people. Using these estimates, it is recommended that the District have the following minimums:

Recommendations

Considering the development and potential projects in the Little Saigon/International District, acquiring open space for this area, which has none, would remarkably improve the livability of this neighborhood. However, the area has a very small residential population, consequently there are some questions about the utility of acquiring open space in this area.

Open Space and the Comprehensive Plan - Table 1c

Requirements		How Served or Not	
1 acre of Village Open Space per 1,000 households - 2.8 acres needed by 2004 - 3.3 acres needed by 2014 (This should be dedicated open spaces of at least 10,000 square feet in size, publicly accessible, and useable for recreation and social activities.)	No	Total of 1.5 acres of Useable Public Open Space (From Seattle's GIS Maps) Hing Hay Park = .3 acres Kobe Terrace Park = 1 acre International Children's Park = .2 acres Pending Seattle Parks Site 12th and Lane = .23 acres Consequently, the Community needs an additional 1.3 acres of open space by 2004 and 1.8 acres by 2014 (under the assumption that 510 additional units of housing will be created by 2014)	In addition, existing parks in the District are all in need of repair, renovation, and programming of events to activate them, while regular policing is needed to ensure that no illegal activity occurs in this space. Although this problem is not isolated to the Community, the current configuration of the parks, as well as the proximity of emergency services and businesses that sell cheap goods make them chronically problematic. The provision of emergency services is an essential community service and many communities should share the burden of this location. However, stepped up police foot patrol programming, and streetscape amenities would help to mitigate the negative issues associated with the area that inundate the South Downtown area.
Breathing Space - minimum standard is .33 acres per 100 people. The Community currently has 3099 people 10.23 acres needed for minimum standard of Breathing Space	No	Public Open Space Privately Managed Sites Danny Woo Gardens = 1.5 acres (Operated through InterIm.) Chong-wa = approximately .25 acres ID Village Square = approximately .1 acres Union Station plaza = 1 acre (includes bus tunnel lid) 2.85 acres of privately managed sites + 1.5 acres of publicly managed sites = 4.35 acres of Breathing Space in the District We need 10.23 acres to fill this need - we are short by almost 6 acres	Many recent improvements in the privately managed Danny Woo Gardens have increased visibility into the gardens. The systematic removal of blackberry brambles on the hillside abutting Main Street and heavy tree pruning by volunteers has made a dramatic improvement. It is now possible to see garden plots from the street and the walkway from the entry is visible through the trees. Further enhancing common spaces and continued maintenance are strongly encouraged, as it will provide obvious signs that this place is owned and cared for by the community.
All locations in the village within 1/8th mile from Village Open Space	No	Locations in Little Saigon are not being served, though most of this area is zoned for commercial or industrial.	In addition, wayfinding to and from all open spaces within the community should help direct people to the various parks that exist in the area.

Open Space Recommendations - Table 1d

Name	Issues	Improvements	Identified by whom?
Danw Woon Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal Activity Public perception as a private space Steep grade inhibits use by elderly Visibility and lack of signage/awareness that it exists Orig. retaining walls beginning to fail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve front edge of garden, specifically areas above the Main St. retaining wall (possibly use public art on the wall). Create grand entrance on Main St. with high profile signage. On steep streets leading to garden, provide places for rest. Develop more common spaces for the public. Improve steps and paths within the garden. Increase police foot patrols. Replace failing retaining walls. Improvement of undeveloped areas – east & nw corner of garden, between Metropolitan Apt. B, raised garden beds. 	All: Paula Plandon by InterIm in 2002 w/ Gardeners and people interested in the Garden
Kobe Terrace Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal activity Overgrown trees Obstructs views and away noise Stent graffiti trash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create sight lines through park by pruning trees. Redesign ped. flow to elim. hidden spaces by developing access w/in park, allowing people to see the whole space. Brighten space by pruning & selectively removing trees. Replace invasive ivy w/ groundcovers, perennials or flowers. Create grand entrance on Main St. w/ high profile signage. Mitigate noise from J-5, similar request as other communities have asked for (e.g. Eastlake, First Hill). Recommend a sound barrier. Develop better common spaces to accommodate the number of housing units planned to be built in the area within the next 5 years. Create better connections and better definition with the park and the community garden. Increase police foot patrols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICDA - Neigh. - Consult. - Parks - Neigh. - ICDA - ICDA - Neigh.
Inter-national child's Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open up park visually on the Southwest corner while maintaining physical barrier for child safety. Create better connections w/ new community center that will be built across the street from this park by making sure that Lane Street is safe to cross for users – establish better marked crosswalks and signalization. Program this park according to the new needs of this growing community. Replace the bamboo and some shrubbery on the north edge of the park with landscaping which transients and illegal uses cannot hide behind or eliminate altogether. Eliminate invasive ivy and blackberry brambles on northwest side of the park and replace with perennials or flowers. Enhance the play structures of the park to accommodate both young children (4-8) and older children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult. - CAB - CAB - CAB - CAB - CAB

Open Space Recommendations - Table 1d - continuation

Name	Issues	Improvements	Identified by whom?
Hing Way Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal activity West side dirt and shaded, not activated The sunken landform puts the park in an inferior position to the street making it "hidden" and not allowing people there to be seen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace existing planting on the west side with seasonal color and flowering plants. Work with any potential redevelopment of the Post Office site to accommodate better use on that side of the park. Possibly, encourage retail to shoulder that side of the park, consequently activating the park with positive activities. Future design of this site should consider the performances that can be held at this park, the need to create shelter, and public safety. Replace outdated stools on the south side of the park. Replace or refurbish the outdated Bulletin Board and sign at the Southeast corner of the park. Raised planting beds can be strategically placed in the park to soften park's design (ex. of Bryant Park in NYC). Strategically place new Public Art feature to illuminate the history of the community. Dramatic nighttime lighting of pavilion, as part of the South Downtown lighting improvement project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neigh/ Consult. - Neigh/ CAB - Neigh/ CAB - Neigh. - Neigh. - Consult. - Neigh. - Neigh.
Open air Market	Does not exist – possibly can put on bus tunnel Rd, Hing Way Park, below J-5 freeway	look at the feasibility of developing an open air market for the summer. This idea was supported by many participants at our workshops.	Neigh.

Neigh. = The Community, either through a comment at one of our urban design workshops or in previous community meetings

Consult. or Cslt. = Consultants

CAB = Community Advisory Board members

ICDA = InterIm Community Development Association staff

Acquisition

The community will be receiving money from the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund that will be shared with the Pioneer Square neighborhood. These funds can only be used to acquire open space for the Community.

All existing parks in the District suffer from similar public safety problems such as loitering, assault, and drug dealing. Consequently, new acquisitions should not target properties that are tucked away or relatively enclosed. Instead, new acquisitions should follow some of the following recommendations:

- Locate in the “gap zone” currently not being served as recommended by the Seattle Comprehensive Plan. (See figure x.)
- Visible from the street.
- Central location to create public square for activity to center on. (Promoted in Seattle Comprehensive Plan.)
- Partner with commercial centers and businesses
 1. More people will use the space & enliven it.
 2. Reinforce the prosperity of local businesses
- Create playful elements for adults along street corridor on pedestrian street.

New, Private Open Space

- Encourage urban rooftop gardens in new construction projects.

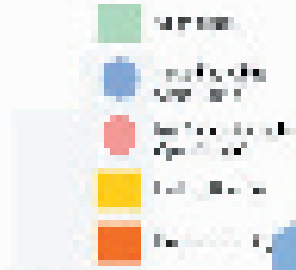
Although a park is pending in the Industrial area (pending on a land exchange between the Park’s department and a private developer), Little Saigon currently lacks public open space. In the 1998 Chinatown/International District Neighborhood Plan, it was highly recommended that the Little Saigon community acquire and develop an open space. In concurrence, the urban design plan recommends that the Little Saigon community acquire a parcel for open space, but only if it is an appropriate site. However, as stated before, the Little Saigon neighborhood has a very small residential population. Consequently, there are some questions about the utility and practicality of acquiring open space in this area.

However, if no appropriate site can be located or acquired in the Little Saigon community and/or if there is a better site to acquire in either Chinatown or Japantown, then acquisition of sites west of the I-5 freeway should be seriously taken into consideration. In previous community discussions, many people have discussed the idea of expanding existing open spaces within the District (Hing Hay, Kobe Terrace, Children’s Park/Community Center), thus enhancing the existing spaces for current users.

The map on the following page titled Open Space Acquisition shows the areas currently not served by open space, according to the open space criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.



UW Landscape Architecture student vision of a park in the Little Saigon neighborhood



NOTE: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup = 125 ml; 1 cup = 250 ml; 1 pint = 500 ml; 1 quart = 1,000 ml; 1 liter = 1,000 ml; 1 gallon = 3,785 ml.

Streetscapes

6th Avenue and Main Street



5th Avenue and Weller Street



6th Avenue and Jackson Street



Maynard Avenue and King Street